

Attorney's Docket No. K&A 23-0715
Client's Docket No. 13885

APPLICATION

FOR UNITED STATES LETTERS PATENT

SPECIFICATION

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

BE IT KNOWN THAT I, **GREGORY LUSSON**, a citizen of
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, have invented a new and useful
LIGHTER EXTENSION ASSEMBLY of which the following is a
specification:

LIGHTER EXTENSION ASSEMBLY

5 CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

This application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/443,389, filed January 29, 2003.

10 BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to lighter accessories and more particularly pertains to a new lighter extension assembly for attaching to a lighter to permit ignition of the lighter and lighting of an item from an extended distance.

Description of the Prior Art

20 The use of lighter extensions is known in the prior art. U.S. Patent No. 4,315,731 issued to Moore on February 16, 1982 describes an elongated device having a lighter holster opposite a pistol grip trigger mechanism. Another type of lighter extension is U.S. Patent No. 4,259,059 issued to Roosa et al. on March 31, 1981 having an existing conventional lighter mounted on an extension having a lighter holder and a plunger or operating arm for selectively activating the lighter. U.S. Patent No. 4,462,791 issued to Hayden on July 31, 1984 discloses an elongated resilient member bent into a shape forming a holster positioned adjacent to an actuating end of the elongated resilient member such that squeezing adjacently positioned middle portions together actuates a lighter positioned in the holster.

While these devices fulfill their respective, particular objectives and requirements, the need remains for a lighter extension that is extendable to a desired length and provides superior structure to facilitate accurate positioning of a lighter held in an extended position.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention generally comprises an elongated extension member, a holster for holding a conventional disposable lighter, a main gripping portion, and a lighter ignition mechanism for providing linear movement by a lighter actuation assembly upon squeezing a trigger. The elongated extension member is telescopic and a supplemental handle may also be provided.

There has thus been outlined, rather broadly, the more important features of the invention in order that the detailed description thereof that follows may be better understood, and in order that the present contribution to the art may be better appreciated. There are additional features of the invention that will be described hereinafter and which will form the subject matter of the claims appended hereto.

The objects of the invention, along with the various features of novelty which characterize the invention, are pointed out with particularity in the claims annexed to and forming a part of this disclosure.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The invention will be better understood and objects other than those set forth above will become apparent when consideration is
5 given to the following detailed description thereof. Such description makes reference to the annexed drawings wherein:

Figure 1 is a side view of a new lighter extension assembly according to the present invention in an extended position.

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Figure 2 is a side view of the present invention in a retracted position.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

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With reference now to the drawings, and in particular to Figures 1 through 2 thereof, a new lighter extension assembly embodying the principles and concepts of the present invention and generally designated by the reference numeral 10 will be described.

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As best illustrated in Figures 1 through 2, the lighter extension assembly 10 is designed for holding a lighter 2 ignitable by a linear movement. The lighter extension assembly 10 comprises an elongated extension member 12 and a holster 14 designed for
25 receiving and holding the lighter 2. The holster 14 is positioned at a distal end 16 of the elongated extension member 12. A main gripping member 18 extends from a proximal end 20 of the elongated extension member 12 opposite the holster 14. A lighter ignition mechanism 22 extends along the elongated extension
30 member 12 between the distal end 16 of the extension member 12 and the main gripping member 18. An actuation assembly 24, such as is shown and employed in the prior art cited above, is

operationally coupled to the lighter ignition mechanism 22 such that manipulation of the lighter ignition mechanism 22 moves the actuation assembly 24 to provide the linear movement required to ignite the lighter 2.

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The lighter ignition mechanism 22 includes a trigger 26 positioned adjacent to the main gripping member 18 such that the trigger 26 is designed for being engaged by a finger of a hand grasping the main gripping member 18.

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Preferably, the actuation assembly 24 remains in contact with a gas release mechanism 4 of the lighter 2 while the trigger 26 is held in a pulled position.

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The elongated extension member 12 is telescopic to facilitate adjustment of a distance of the lighter 2 from the main gripping member 18. In this embodiment, the lighter ignition mechanism 22 includes a cable member 66 operationally coupled to the trigger 26 in a fashion similar to the use of a brake cable to remotely actuate bicycle brakes using a squeezing motion remote from the brake calipers. Thus, the extension member 12 may be adjusted back and forth without having to readjust the lighter ignition mechanism 22.

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In an embodiment, a supplemental handle 30 extends from a medial portion 32 of the elongated extension member 12 in spaced relationship to the main gripping member 18 to facilitate handling and controlling movement of the elongated extension member 12 during use.

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In use, the lighter is positioned in the holster in an orientation such that the linear movement of the actuation assembly will properly engage the lighter to provide ignition. The extension member is adjusted if necessary to the desired length when a
5 telescopic extension member is utilized. The trigger is pulled by a finger of a hand grasping the main gripping member. The lighter is ignited by the linear movement of the actuation assembly caused by pulling the trigger. The user releases the trigger to extinguish the lighter.

10 With respect to the above description then, it is to be realized that the optimum dimensional relationships for the parts of the invention, to include variations in size, materials, shape, form, function and manner of operation, assembly and use, are deemed
15 readily apparent and obvious to one skilled in the art, and all equivalent relationships to those illustrated in the drawings and described in the specification are intended to be encompassed by the present invention.

20 Therefore, the foregoing is considered as illustrative only of the principles of the invention. Further, since numerous modifications and changes will readily occur to those skilled in the art, it is not desired to limit the invention to the exact construction and operation shown and described, and accordingly, all suitable
25 modifications and equivalents may be resorted to, falling within the scope of the invention.